

# alterline

## Union Futures: Your results

#### January 2017

For further information, please contact:

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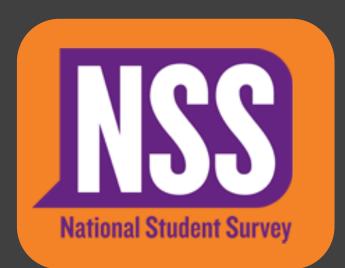


## Introduction to the project



#### A Background to Union Futures

Q26: "The Students' Union (Association or Guild) effectively represents students' academic interests."



Some of the biggest changes to the NSS questionnaire come in the form of a new group of nine questions on student engagement (learning community and student voice).

For unions, the change from Q23 to Q26 means a shift away from a broad measure of satisfaction to one which asks students specifically about the union's impact on their academic experience.

With the publication of an amended NSS questionnaire the thoughts of many are turning to the impact:

- What new insights will we learn?
- What strengths and weaknesses will it expose?
- What opportunities will it present?
- And, of course, what impact will it have on the league tables?



#### An overview of Union Futures

This project has brought together 18 unions as part of a joint research venture to enable a proactive response to the new NSS questions. The project explores:

- What are the types of experiences, perceptions and attitudes that will influence how students respond to Q26?
- What are the union characteristics that will differentiate positive responses to Q26?
- How will students respond to the new Q26 question, and what can unions do to prepare?





#### The Union Futures method

#### **Online student survey**

- An online survey was completed by undergraduate students at 18 institutions
- The survey was live between 14<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- In total, the survey received 17,085 responses
- You received a total of 903 responses
- <u>This PowerPoint presents your results from the survey and the</u> <u>benchmark of all results from all participating institutions.</u>



#### Survey of union information

• Each union completed a survey giving specific information about their own organisation.



#### **Online focus groups**

- Four online focus groups were conducted with students from across the 18 institutions
- A total of 29 students took part in the focus groups.



#### The Union Futures method

#### Analysis and reporting

#### Workshop

A workshop with representatives from the 18 institutions was conducted to discuss the emerging findings

#### Outputs

 $(\mathbf{1})$ 

- Institution's own results: This PowerPoint. It reports on your own institution's results to the student survey
  - **Datasets:** Each institution with receive their own dataset, including openended responses



(2)

<u>The report</u>: Alterline will author a report, available to all participating institutions, which identifies key findings and makes a series of strategic recommendations



**Public report:** Alterline will produce a short, public-facing summary report. This will include far less information than the main report but may be useful for the sector as a whole by raising awareness of key challenges and lessons learned.



#### Note of caution



- The results of this study are intended to facilitate an exploration of the changes to the National Student Survey and what they mean for students and students' unions
- The results are not designed to be predictive of your institution's NSS score
- There was considerable variation in the sample sizes achieved across participating institutions. Small institutional sample sizes will be less representative than larger ones.



## Your union's results and the benchmark

Key:

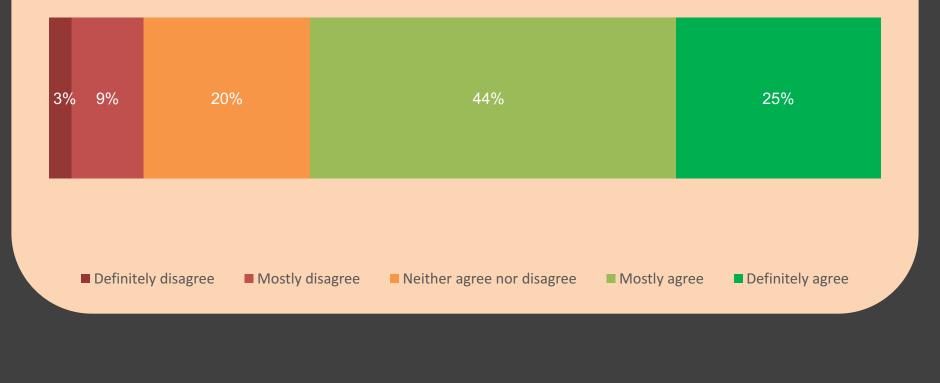
Slides with orange titles contain your union's results. Slides with green titles contain overall results for the benchmark.

Please note that percentages in charts are rounded to the nearest integer and may therefore not add up to 100%.



#### B1 – NSS Q26

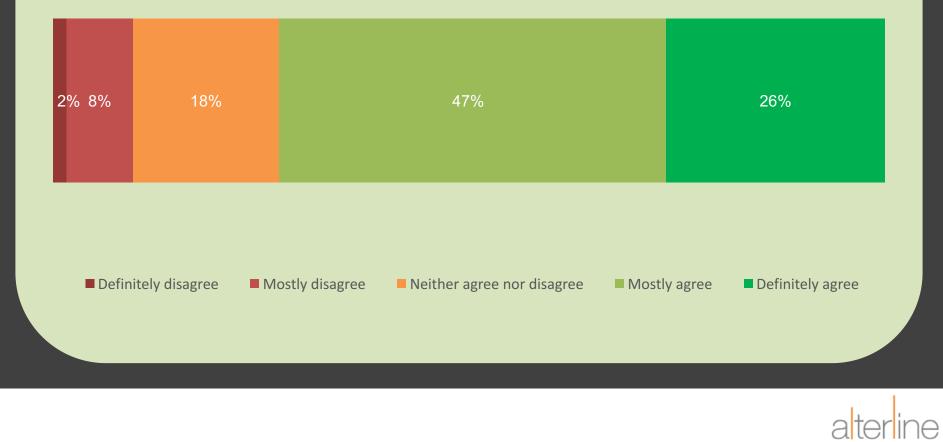
To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "The Students' union/ Association/ Guild effectively represents students' academic interests"? Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (898)





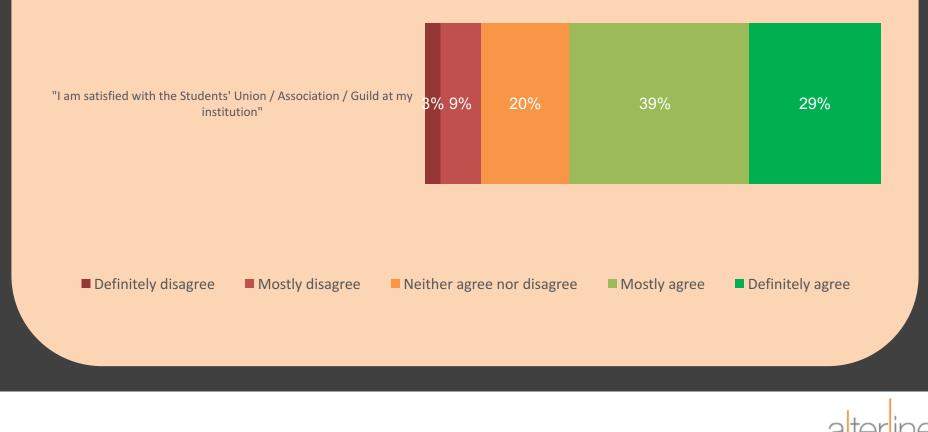
#### B1 – NSS Q26 (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "The Students' Union/ Association/ Guild effectively represents students' academic interests"? Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (16998)



#### B2 – NSS Q23

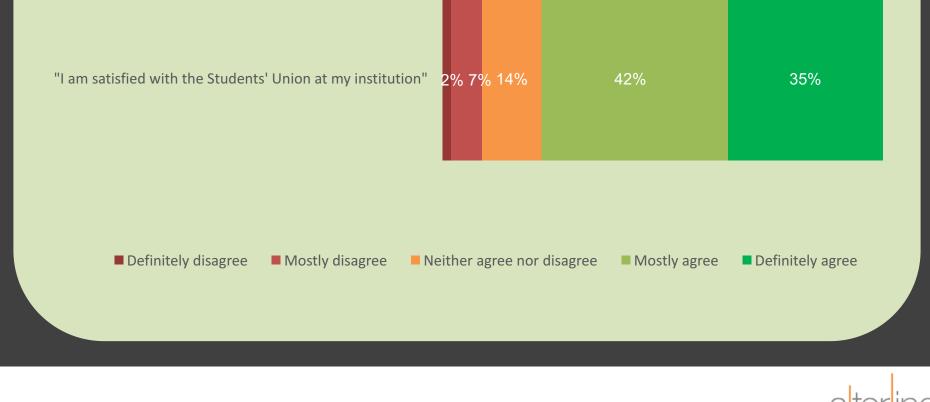
Thinking of all the services, including support, activities and academic representation provided by the Students' Union/ Association/ Guild at your institution, to what extent do you agree with the following statement: Base: All respondents not N/A (894)



#### B2 – NSS Q23 (Benchmark)

Thinking of all the services including support, activities and academic representation provided by the Students' Union/Association/Guild at your institution, to what extent do you agree with the following statement:

Base: All respondents not N/A (16998)



## B3 – Other perceptions

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the follow Base: All respondents to the survey (903)	ing statements	?		
My Students' Union / Association / Guild is welcoming and inclusive to all types of students	5%6% 18	8%	39%	32%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild makes it easy for students to get involved in its activities	5% 9%	19%	44%	23%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild offers a range of relevant opportunities, events and services	5% 9%	19%	46%	20%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild is student-led	3%7% 2	24%	40%	27%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild is easy-to-use	5% 10%	23%	42%	20%
I would turn to the Students' Union / Association / Guild if I needed help and advice	7% 15%	20%	40%	18%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild works to ensure the academic needs of students are met	5% 9%	29%	42%	16%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild communicates well with me	6% 13%	24%	41%	16%
My Students' Union / Association / Guild helps me make the most of my time as a student	7% 12%	26%	39%	16%
I understand what the Students' Union / Association / Guild is achieving for me and my academic interests	8% 13%	26%	40%	149
My Students' Union / Association / Guild makes sure I get the best possible academic outcome from my course	6% 13%	31%	38%	13
My Students' Union / Association / Guild helps make me more employable when I graduate	6% 12%	34%	34%	149
My Students' Union / Association / Guild has helped me develop useful life skills	8% 14%	33%	32%	13
	either agree no	r disagree	Mostly agree 🛛 🗖 Defi	nitely agree



18%

16%

16%

16%

14%

13%

14%

13%

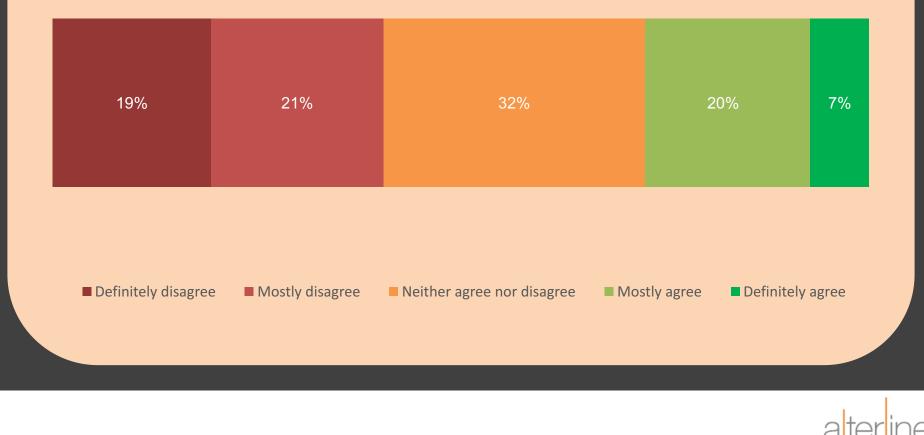
#### B3 – Other perceptions (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following stater Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)	nents?			
My Students' Union is welcoming and inclusive to all types of students	3%5% <mark>12%</mark>	39%	41	%
My Students' Union is student-led	2% 5%15%	42%	3	36%
My Students' Union offers a range of relevant opportunities, events and services	2%7 <mark>% 14%</mark>	47%		29%
My Students' Union makes it easy for students to get involved in its activities	3%7% 16%	46%	_	28%
My Students' Union is easy-to-use	3%9% 23%	46	3%	20%
My Students' Union communicates well with me	4%11% 21%	<b>6</b> 44	4%	21%
My Students' Union works to ensure the academic needs of students are met	3%9% 27%	6	46%	15%
My Students' Union helps me make the most of my time as a student	<u>4%11%</u> 26	<b>3%</b>	41%	18%
I would turn to the Students' Union if I needed help and advice	6% 17%	21%	38%	18%
I understand what the Students' Union is achieving for me and my academic interests	5% 16%	28%	39%	12%
My Students' Union makes sure I get the best possible academic outcome from my course	4% 14%	34%	37%	11%
My Students' Union helps make me more employable when I graduate	5% 13%	35%	34%	14%
My Students' Union has helped me develop useful life skills	7% 17%	37%	28%	11%
Definitely disagree	her agree nor disa	gree 📕 Mostly ag	ree Defin	itely agree

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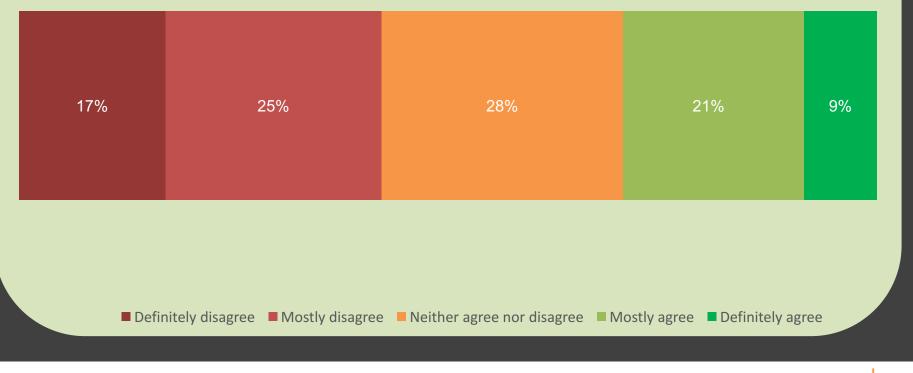
#### C1 – Involvement

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am involved with the Students' Union / Association / Guild." Base: All respondents to the survey (903)



#### C1 – Involvement (Benchmark)

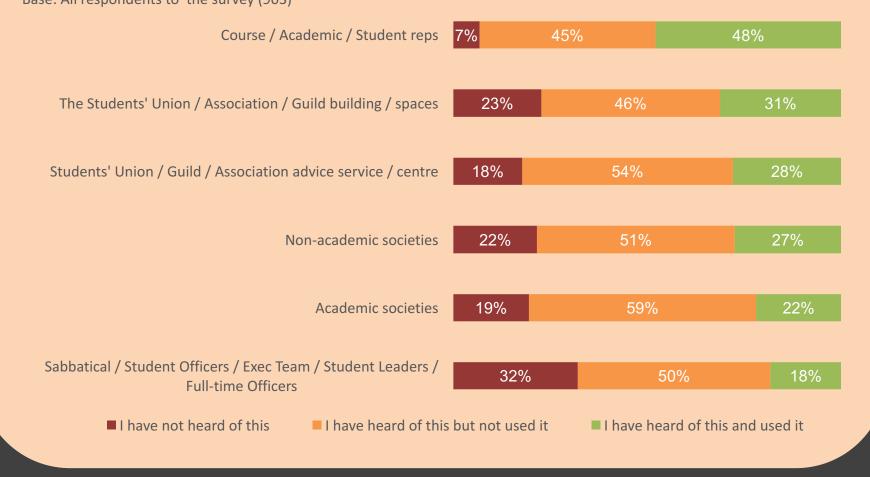
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am involved with the Students' Union / Association / Guild." Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)





#### C2 – Use and awareness of services

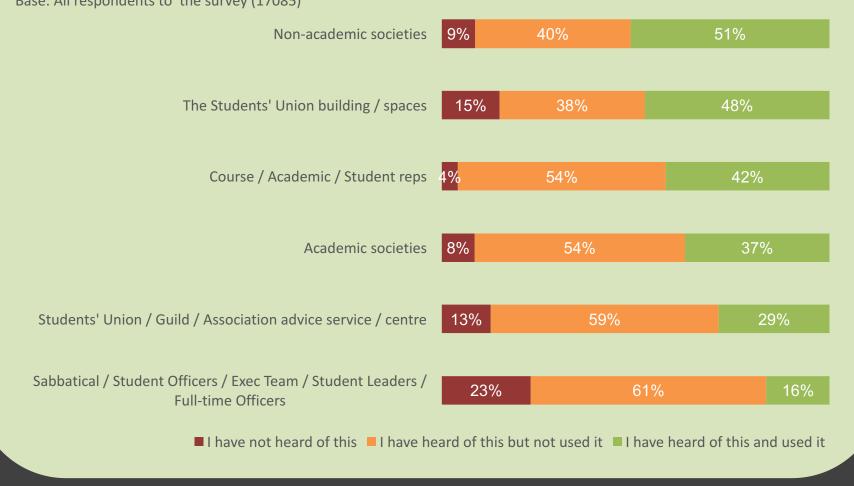
Which of the following have you heard of or used, visited or had contact with during you time at university? Base: All respondents to the survey (903)





## C2 – Use and awareness of services (Benchmark)

Which of the following have you heard of or used, visited or had contact with during you time at university? Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)





#### C3 – Likelihood to use services

If you had a question, issue or problem surrounding your academic interests, how likely would you be to contact or use the following services?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Course lecturer (base: 866)	3% <mark>2</mark> % 8%	20%		66%	
Head of the department your course comes under (base: 880)	4%7%	15%	27%	48%	
Course / Academic / Student reps (base: 881)	7% 11	% 17%	31%		34%
Students' Union / Guild / Association advice service / centre (base: 887)	11%	16%	23%	29%	21%
Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time Officer (base: 880)	15%	16%	27%	25%	17%
Academic societies (base: 875)	15%	19%	27%	24%	16%
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Neither lil	kely nor unlikely	Likely	Very likely



#### C3 – Likelihood to use services (Benchmark)

If you had a question, issue or problem surrounding your academic interests, how likely would you be to contact or use the following services?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Course lecturer (base: 16560)	2 <mark>%3%5%</mark>	25%				65%	
Head of the department your course comes under (base: 16717)	<mark>4%</mark> 9%	11%	3	32%		44%	6
Course / Academic / Student reps (base: 16819)	7%	16%	16%		33%		28%
Students' Union / Guild / Association advice service / centre (base: 16887)	11%	22%		22%		29%	17%
Academic societies (base: 16753)	16%		27%		23%	22%	12%
Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time Officer (base: 16746)	16%		26%		25%	21%	12%
Very unlikely	Unlikely	Neith	er likely	nor unlik	ely	Likely	Very likely

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#### C4 – Voting in elections and being a course rep

Please answer yes or no to the following:

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Have you ever voted in a Course / 47% 53% Academic / Student reps election? (base: 857) Have you ever been an elected 73% 27% Course / Academic / Student rep? (base: 850) Have you ever voted to elect Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / 74% 26% Full-time Officers to your Students' Union / Association / Guild? (base: 831) No Yes



## C4 – Voting in elections and being a course rep (Benchmark)

Please answer yes or no to the following: Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Have you ever voted in a Course / Academic / Student reps election? 41% 59% (base: 16483) Have you ever voted to elect Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec 37% Team / Student Leaders / Full-time 63% Officers to your Students' Union? (base: 16218) Have you ever been an elected 21% Course / Academic / Student rep? 79% (base: 16366) No Yes



## D1 – Representation

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the follo have on decisions about your institution? Base: All respondents to the survey (903)	owing state	ements abc	out the influence yo	u	
I can influence decisions taken at course level	7% 13	3%	33%	40%	8%
I feel my views are well represented when decisions are made in my institution	7% 1:	3%	37%	35%	7%
The Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full- time Officers effectively represent me	6% 13	3%	42%	31%	7%
I can influence decisions taken by the university	11%	16%	38%	29%	6%
I can influence decisions made by the Students' Union / Association / Guild	8%	16%	41%	30%	5%
Definitely disagree Mostly disagree	either agre	ee nor disag	gree 📕 Mostly ag	gree   Definitely ag	gree



#### D1 – Representation (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the influence you have on decisions about your institution? Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)

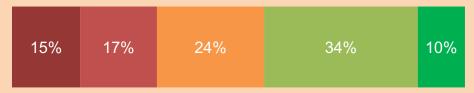
I can influence decisions taken at course level	5% 15%	29%	42%	9%
I feel my views are well represented when decisions are made in my institution	5% 13%	37%	39%	6%
The Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full- time Officers effectively represent me	5% 11%	40%	37%	6%
I can influence decisions made by the Students' Union	6% 17%	36%	34%	6%
I can influence decisions taken by the university	10% 229	% 35%	29%	4 <mark>%</mark>
Definitely disagree Mostly disagree	Neither agree n	or disagree 🛛 🗖 Mostly a	gree 🗖 Definitely a	agree

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#### D2 – Awareness of student officers

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: All respondents to the survey (903)

I understand what the Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers do



I know who the Students' Union / Association / Guild Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers are

19% 17% 21% 32% 11%	
---------------------	--

Definitely disagree

Mostly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Mostly agree

Definitely agree



#### D2 – Awareness of student officers (Benchmark)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: All respondents to the survey (17085)

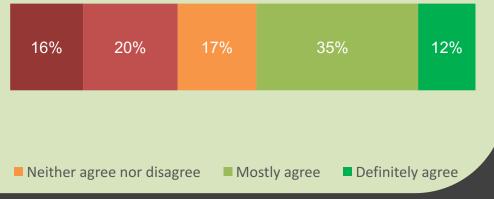
I understand what the Students' Union Sabbatical / Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Fulltime officers do

-	12% 20%	21%	37%	10%
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I know who the Students' Union Sabbatical/ Student Officers / Exec Team / Student Leaders / Full-time officers are

Mostly disagree

Definitely disagree





#### E2 – Representing students' academic interests

Please choose three things from the following list which you think are most important for your Students' Union / Association / Guild to campaign for to represent your academic interests? Please select the three that apply.

Base: All respondents (903)

Helping students be more employable when they graduate Placements / work based experience Quality of teaching Financial support or advice One-to-one academic support

Mental health support Personal skills development

The quality of the learning environment

Assignment feedback Wi-Fi availability / connection on campus

University communication

Parking on campus Library facilities

Improving assessments

Social learning space on campus Efficiency of timetabling process

IT resources

Quiet study space

National issues relating to academic interests The quality of the online learning environment Changing the number of contact hours 2%

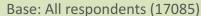


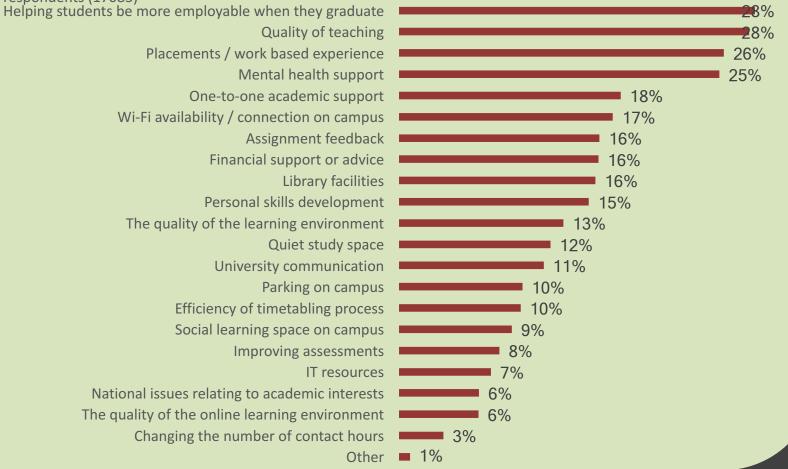


#### E2 – Representing students' academic interests (Benchmark)

Please choose three things from the following list which you think are most important for your Students' Union / Association / Guild to campaign for to represent your academic interests? Please

#### select the three that apply.







## F1 – Other NSS questions

Thinking about your course as a whole, to what extent of statements? Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answe		-		
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course (base: 892)	8%7%	15%	36%	40%
I have had the right opportunities to provide feedback on my course (base: 899)	<mark>3%</mark> 8%	16%	41%	32%
I feel part of a community of staff and students (base: 900)	4% 8%	17%	41%	30%
Staff value students' views and opinions about the course (base: 891)	4% 8%	20%	39%	30%
Feedback which students give about my course is valued (base: 881)	3% 7%	23%	37%	29%
It is clear how students' feedback on the course has been acted on (base: 893)	5% 10%	6 27%	34%	24%
Definitely disagree Mostly disagree	either agre	ee nor disagre	e Mostly agree	Definitely agree



#### F1 – Other NSS questions (Benchmark)

Thinking about your course as a whole, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents to the survey who did not answer N/A (Varies - see chart below)

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course (base: 16870)	2%5 <mark>%11%</mark>	43%	40%
I have had the right opportunities to provide feedback on my course (base: 16974)	1%6% <mark>13%</mark>	44%	36%
I feel part of a community of staff and students (base: 17032)	3 <mark>%8% 15%</mark>	45%	30%
Staff value students' views and opinions about the course (base: 16923)	2 <mark>%6%</mark> 18%	42%	32%
Feedback which students give about my course is valued (base: 16810)	2%6% 21%	41%	29%
It is clear how students' feedback on the course has been acted on (base: 16874)	4% 13%	24% 35%	22%
Definitely disagree Mostly disagree	Neither agree nor	disagree 🛛 🗖 Mostly agree	Definitely agree

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